

record of the United States to the facility referred to in subsection (a) shall be deemed to be a reference to the Vernon Tarlton Post Office Building.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from Virginia (Mrs. JO ANN DAVIS) and the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Virginia (Mrs. JO ANN DAVIS).

GENERAL LEAVE

Mrs. JO ANN DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on H.R. 3072.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from Virginia?

There was no objection.

Mrs. JO ANN DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 3072, and I commend the distinguished gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. TAYLOR) for introducing this bill. This measure designates the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 125 Main Street in Forest City, North Carolina, as the Vernon Tarlton Post Office Building. H.R. 3072 is supported by all members of the North Carolina delegation.

Mr. Speaker, in all corners of our great Nation we find many citizens who give so much to their communities. It is true of my own district and of each and every Member of Congress. Vernon Tarlton is one of these individuals.

A lifelong champion of Forest City in Rutherford County, North Carolina, Vernon Tarlton's list of accomplishments is long, varied, and distinguished. He served on the Forest City Board of Commissioners and was named one of the Outstanding City Councilmen in North Carolina.

He has received several awards to honor his community service. He was named the Rutherford County Volunteer of the Year. In 2000, he was honored by the Kiwanis Club as its Citizen of the Year. Furthermore, Vernon Tarlton received the North Carolina Governors Award for Outstanding Volunteer. Mr. Tarlton continues to take an active part in the Presbyterian church, serving as an elder and a trustee.

Finally, although in poor health, Vernon Tarlton worked tirelessly with property owners and postal officials to locate the site on which the new postal facility is to be built.

Mr. Speaker, it is fitting that we honor the many contributions of Vernon Tarlton by naming the post office at 125 Main Street in Forest City, North Carolina, for him.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all Members to support this important legislation.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I might consume.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to join with my colleague, the gentlewoman from Virginia (Mrs. JO ANN DAVIS), in the House consideration of H.R. 3072, which names the post office in Forest City, North Carolina, after Mr. Vernon Tarlton. This measure was introduced by the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. TAYLOR) on October 9, 2001. H.R. 3072 has met the committee policy and is supported and cosponsored by the entire North Carolina delegation.

Mr. Tarlton is a lifelong member of the Forest City community. He has spent his time working for the betterment of his neighborhood and of the great State of North Carolina. He is a man of great faith and serves his Presbyterian church as both an elder and trustee. Last year, he was named the 2000 Citizen of the Year by the Kiwanis Club and is a recipient of the North Carolina Governors Award for Outstanding Volunteer.

Mr. Speaker, this is a man who truly cares about his community. So much so, that he has worked tirelessly on the bringing in of a new postal facility to the city. Mr. Tarlton's efforts have not been in vain. Passage of H.R. 3072 means that the new facility will be named after Mr. Tarlton. I cannot think of a better honor for one who has worked so diligently on behalf of his neighbors, friends, and other residents of his community.

I would urge passage of this postal-naming bill.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mrs. JO ANN DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

I again thank the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. BURTON), the chairman of the Committee on Government Reform, and the gentleman from California (Mr. WAXMAN), the ranking member, along with the gentleman from Florida (Mr. WELDON), the chairman of the Subcommittee on Civil Service and Agency Organization, and the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS), the ranking member, for expediting consideration of this measure.

Again, I urge all Members to support this measure.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from Virginia (Mrs. JO ANN DAVIS) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 3072.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

RAYMOND M. DOWNEY POST OFFICE BUILDING

Mrs. JO ANN DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 3379) to designate the facility of the United States

Postal Service located at 375 Carlls Path in Deer Park, New York, as the "Raymond M. Downey Post Office Building".

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 3379

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. RAYMOND M. DOWNEY POST OFFICE BUILDING.

(a) DESIGNATION.—The facility of the United States Postal Service located at 375 Carlls Path in Deer Park, New York, shall be known and designated as the "Raymond M. Downey Post Office Building".

(b) REFERENCES.—Any reference in a law, map, regulation, document, paper, or other record of the United States to the facility referred to in subsection (a) shall be deemed to be a reference to the Raymond M. Downey Post Office Building.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from Virginia (Mrs. JO ANN DAVIS) and the gentleman from New York (Mr. ISRAEL) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Virginia (Mrs. JO ANN DAVIS).

GENERAL LEAVE

Mrs. JO ANN DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on H.R. 3379.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from Virginia?

There was no objection.

Mrs. JO ANN DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 3379 introduced, by my distinguished colleague, the gentleman from New York (Mr. ISRAEL), is an important piece of legislation that designates the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 375 Carlls Path in Deer Park, New York, as the Raymond M. Downey Post Office Building. It carries the support of the entire New York congressional delegation.

Mr. Speaker, we lost many heroes in New York on September 11, but the loss of Chief Downey was an especially difficult one. A New York firefighter for 35 years, Raymond Downey's long and distinguished career is worth noting. He served with ladder and engine companies and with rescue squad companies.

He commanded Rescue Company 2 for 14 years. Chief Downey became a battalion chief in August 1994. Most recently, Chief Downey led the Special Operations Command, whose duties include rescue work, marine operations and the handling of dangerous materials.

□ 1445

He was one of the Nation's leading experts on rescue operations at collapsed buildings.

Furthermore, Raymond Downey led a New York Fire Department special unit to assist in recovery efforts at the

Murrah Federal Building in Oklahoma City, directed rescue efforts at the 1993 attack at the World Trade Center, and assisted FEMA in forming a national network search and rescue team.

Mr. Speaker, these remarkable accomplishments speak highly of Raymond Downey. Those who saw him work were awed by his abilities to bring order to even the most chaotic situations. Chief Downey achieved almost mythical status among his colleagues.

Mr. Speaker, I would just like to say on a personal note, being married to a battalion chief in the Hampton Fire Department for 30 years, I know what these firefighters go through and I know what they are like, and I can just imagine what Mr. Downey did for his men that worked for him, and I know they are all very proud of him, as I am sure all of New York is.

Since September 11, we have heard countless stories of heroic acts from members of New York's Fire Department. And yet, even in an organization filled with great men and women, Chief Raymond Downey stood out. That he would die in just the type of disaster for which he had received world acclaim was no surprise to those who knew him. For almost 40 years, he had been running into buildings as everyone else was running out.

Raymond Downey was a cornerstone of the New York Fire Department. His commitment to public service and his fellow man will forever linger in the hearts and minds of New Yorkers and all Americans.

Mr. Speaker, it is fitting that we honor the memory of this great American hero by renaming the post office at 375 Carlls Path in Deer Park New York as the Raymond M. Downey Post Office Building. He is deserving of this great tribute. I urge all Members to support this important resolution.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. ISRAEL. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I rise today not simply to honor a constituent but, rather, to honor a national treasure, Raymond Downey. Heroes are known not only for their deeds but also for their rarity. New York lost many heroes on September 11, Ray Downey epitomized their courage.

At 63, he had been a New York firefighter for nearly 40 years. He led the Special Operations Command, and was probably the world's leading expert on rescues of collapsed buildings. When the World Trade Center was first attacked in 1993, Ray Downey led rescue operations at the World Trade Center. When the Murrah Federal Building in Oklahoma was bombed, Chief Downey was the natural choice to oversee the search and rescue efforts. On September 11, when planes crashed into the Twin Towers, of course Chief Downey would be there, sacrificing his own life so that thousands of others might live; giving his life doing the job he performed so nobly.

Ray Downey gave his life side-by-side hundreds of New York rescue workers, thousands of New Yorkers. Almost everyone in my district knows someone who did not make it out of the World Trade Center that day. We are all prone to a sense of why some and not others. It is a question different people with different faiths will answer in different ways, but in the case of Chief Downey, we know why: It was because while everyone was running away from danger, Ray Downey and his comrades were rushing towards danger. He had been going in that direction for 39 years as firefighter.

While everyone was running down the stairs of the Towers, Ray Downey was going into those buildings, going up the stairs, an act of heroism that allowed thousands of innocent men and women to return home to their families that night. He was an inspiration to all who saw him that morning. He will be an inspiration to all who will know him throughout history. In the words of Reverend Billy Graham, "courage is contagious. When a brave man takes a stand, the spines of others are stiffened." On September 11, Ray Downey took a noble stand.

There were over 300 firefighters who lost their lives running up the stairs, running into the very face of danger on September 11. I have been to countless memorial services for the almost 100 people in my district who have been lost. This weekend, I went to Ray Downey's. The turnout was immense, huge, commensurate to his standing in his community and his country. He was a rock of strength and courage to his fellow firefighters, to the people of New York, and his community of Deer Park.

We have come to know a lot of heroes in New York since September. Even among heroes, Ray Downey was something special, something truly extraordinary. His colleagues knew that. They called him God. He was not God. He was not immortal. And the risks he took running into a dangerous building were just as great as they were for anyone else. To give his life to save others, that is what made him a hero.

When Ray Downey and his 300 men raced up the staircases of the World Trade Center, they surely knew what the likely outcome would be. Yet they chose others' lives over their own. They chose professionalism over self-interest. They looked directly into the face of death and made us all brave. They were frightened in those last moments, of course, but they kept moving up to death, guiding people down to life. In the words of the poet, "courage is not the absence of fear, it is the conquest of it."

Ray Downey. We will not see his likes again in our lifetime, and that is why the naming of the Deer Park Post Office as the Raymond Downey Post Office is so appropriate a tribute.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mrs. JO ANN DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I yield 30 seconds to the gentleman from New York (Mr. KING).

Mr. KING. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman for yielding me this time, and I am proud to join with my colleague, the gentleman from New York (Mr. ISRAEL) this afternoon.

Ray Downey was a legend in the New York City Fire Department. He and I grew up in the same department in Queens. He is a man who dedicated his life to saving other lives. And as the gentleman from New York (Mr. ISRAEL) said, when 25,000 people were coming down the stairs, Ray Downey, at the age of 63, when he could have been sitting behind a desk, was going into a building to rescue thousands of people, and he certainly deserves whatever accolades we can give him. But more important than that, he has the accolades of all those who knew and loved him.

Mr. ISRAEL. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

Mr. Speaker, at Raymond Downey's memorial service, his daughter Kathy recited a poem I would like to share. It is entitled *Our Angel*.

"On that dreadful day we huddled in prayer, hearts joined in sorrow, pain difficult to bear. Our angels climbed up, as they helped others down. The Towers may have fallen, but our bravest never touched the ground. They kept soaring up to that heavenly cloud, shining strength down on us, we are grateful and proud. So please say a prayer as a tribute to those whose love never faltered and eternally grows."

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mrs. JO ANN DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time. I commend the distinguished gentleman from New York (Mr. ISRAEL) for introducing this legislation and working so hard to ensure its passage.

I again urge all Members to support this important resolution and to reflect upon this great American, Raymond Downey, for the tremendous devotion that he gave to all New Yorkers during his tenure with the New York Fire Department.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. CULBERSON). The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from Virginia (Mrs. JO ANN DAVIS) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 3379.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds of those present have voted in the affirmative.

Mr. ISRAEL. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

WATER INFRASTRUCTURE SECURITY AND RESEARCH DEVELOPMENT ACT

Mr. BOEHLERT. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill